



# OTVARC Oscillator

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

November 1994 Issue

## The Prez Sez

By Bill - N7VZF

Greetings and salutations from the Old Grey Bear... Winter is rapidly approaching. Two weeks ago, the temp was in the 80's. Now there is frost on the pumpkin in the mornings. This bear, contrary to most of my cousins who live in the wilds, is looking forward to being active during the season. You see, this is when I can start coming out of hibernation.

As there is less outside activity this time of year, there are more chances for inside "Quality Time" opportunities. This is a great time to start thinking about upgrading your licenses; taking on creative projects; helping out with others.

Yep, there is that common thread again. Helping others. You may have noticed, in most of my columns this year, I have somehow slipped in references to "Serving your fellow human beings". Now this is not like in the SCI-FI short story that was made into an episode of the old "Twilight Zone" where aliens come to Earth with a plan to end all strife, world hunger, power shortage and etc. If you don't remember the program or the short story, ask me about it at the next meeting.

Back to the topic. When I made one of my first addresses to the club I related the story of my father. One of the things that has stuck with me over the years from my father was a quote that has set my destiny and has become my father's legacy. "Not all of us are here to get what we can just for ourselves. Some of us are here to give help, where we can, to those who need it."

I remember a poster that I used to see when I was a regular blood donor. "It takes so little to give so much!" The poster was referring to giving blood but the concept can be carried over to include anywhere there is a need. I would like to see the club take on a project or two to promote this feeling and promote this concept.

I know, all of us reach in our pockets and drop some spare change in the collection buckets during the holiday seasons to hopefully salve our souls and make us feel like we have helped. I also know that a lot of hams feel that working the various marathons, walk-a-thons, parades etc. are the type of activities to which I am referring. True in part but not in entirety. How many of you have pickup trucks?

How many have vans or station wagons? I would imagine that most of us have one or the other or both. There are people around our community that don't have either or any vehicle for that matter. Some of these people could use help getting to doctor's appointments, go grocery shopping, all types of things. There are programs that need people to help deliver food, clothing, wood and sometimes the basic needs of life. I would like to see the club get involved with one or some of these projects. Like the poster says.... "It takes so little and gives so much!" We are, after all, by charter a "Public Service Organization". If you would be interested in getting involved, give me a call.

Now, onto a different topic. Elections. Yes, its true, your chance at freedom is on the horizon. You have the chance to throw off the yoke of oppression and rid yourself of the unfeeling dictator currently in office. All that is necessary to vote is that you be a "member in good standing" (you have paid your dues) and are a licensed amateur. I mentioned at the October meeting that candidates needed to have been members of the club for at least 2 years. This is in error. This requirement is only for the people on the nominating committee. If you would be interested in serving on the board for 1995, please contact "Van" Van Ness at 246-7975.

I will close now and let you get on to more important things than reading the muddled meanderings of the old bear. I do want to thank all the people who have helped me this year. For the most part, I have enjoyed serving as your president in 1994 and look forward to a long and rewarding association with the club.

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## Candidate List from Nomination Committee

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### ROSTER OF (POSSIBLE) CANDIDATES FOR OTVARC FOR 1995 as of October 28, 1994

President : Bill Merwin -- N7VZF

Vice President : Janet Bell -- WB7FJC  
Betty Mickley -- N7REX

Treasurer : Lorna Campbell -- KA7RFD

Secretary : Alan Chinnock -- KB7POR  
(see note 1)

Trustees : Bradley Beach -- N7NVC  
Chuck Mickley -- KI7CL  
Bob Cowan -- KI7QI

Note 1 : KB7POR will accept any position  
except president or treasurer.

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Van Van Ness - KE7BB

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## Bob and the Boy Scouts

Or

How KI7QI survived JOTA 1994

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My name is Cowan and I carry a Ham License. It was Saturday, warm and clear. I was working the day watch in my shack and things were quiet. Too quiet. But my shack was due to get crowded soon and I was ready.

There is was, the door bell rang. I moved toward the door, not knowing what to expect but ready to "Get Busy". There to greet me at the door was 4 "Scouts" and 2 adult escorts. I knew that it was time. Time for JOTA.

JOTA (Jamboree on the Air). This is a special project that is sponsored each year by the ARRL to promote amateur radio and scouting.

*"I would do it again in a hot minute!"*

This year, Bob Cowan - KI7QI, volunteered to host a JOTA site at his well equipped "shack" in Lake Oswego. When I asked Bob, during our interview, what it was like, he said it was, "Four Scouts, 2 parents and a ton of questions."

During the 2 hours that the scouts and their advisors were at Bob's, they made at least six contacts from Alaska to Denver; from the West to the East Coast. One of the contacts to Alaska was with another scout troop also working JOTA. To quote Bob, "The scouts were beside themselves with excitement." Most of the contact were on 20 meters but the group was able to make contact with the other half of the pack, at another ham's location, on 2 meters.

The young men were excited about the chance to communicate with others in the area and around the globe. Most of the young men stepped right up and handled the mike like "Old Hands" but several experienced the expected "Mic Fright". Even these warmed rapidly once the contacts started happening.

One or two of the youngsters as well as one of the adult advisors showed a lot of interest in obtaining their licenses. Bob gave them the information concerning the classes and offered to "Elmer" them during their studies.

I asked Bob if there was a memorable quote from one of the scouts, that stuck in his head. To this he replied, "May I have more ice cream, please?" At this he chuckled and said that there were so many questions and comments that it would really be difficult to find one that really stood out among the rest. He did say also though that the reward of seeing the young men's excitement level grow with each contact was worth the time spent.

This lead perfectly to my last question of the interview. I asked Bob of his impression of the experience.

"I really thought it was great fun. I had fun, the kids had fun, we made contacts and I would do it again in a hot minute."

Thanks Bob for investing the time and energy to make the experience a positive one for the scouts. To me, this is what amateur radio is all about. Unlike fishing, where your private "Sweet spot" is protected and hidden from others, amateur radio is most rewarding when it is shared with others. Great job Bob and again, thanks.

*2 Meter SSB Net  
Don't forget, Monday Night at 21:00 PT  
144.240 - USB  
Informal 2m Sideband Net*

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## Minutes of Board Meeting 10/5/94

1. Minutes of Board Meeting on September 7, 1994 approved.
2. The meeting was attended by Al Berg, Bill Merwin, Wes Allen, Betty Mickley, Chuck Mickley and Bradley Beach.

### Old Business:

3. Bob Cowan cannot be on the board as he has not been a member for 2 years as required by the bylaws. Camber Bybee has a new job at Intel with a work schedule such that he will be unable to make meetings. Rick Rasch has resigned and needs to be replaced. The terms are up for Wes Allen, Lynn Hurd and Al Berg and they need to be replaced as well. An Election Committee needs to be appointed to get candidates by the November regular meeting.
4. At the September meeting's raffle, we made \$26 after expenses.
5. Portland Radio donated several items for raffle or giveaway the next meeting.
6. John Larson of Radio Shack wants to advertise in the newsletter and will donate items for a raffle.
7. 501 (c) 3 status: Wes needs copies of the articles of incorporation, constitution and bylaws to commence preparation of the application. Brad will send him copies. Wes said we need to improve our scholarship program, training classes and VE testing participation as part of the application process. We need to get videos to help make presentations to schools and others. If we get the federal designation, the State of Oregon will recognize it and no additional application is required for Oregon.
8. Repeaters: the link between the 146.90 machine and the 440 machine is not operating properly - there is audio distortion. Wes is working on a fix.
9. Cable Sales: a second reel of 1000 feet is available. Wes said several people have expressed interest but no one has bought any yet.
10. The club's tax ID number is 93-0789810.

### New Business:

11. Christmas Party: VP Betty presented a budget of for the December Meeting / Holiday Party. The Aliens have been contacted to provide the entertainment. Betty suggests we consider a "party-party" rather than a "dinner-entertainment" type party. She suggested an hors d'oeuvre buffet with 8 items to be served after the business meeting portion and that we raffle a handheld and other items during the event. Betty has some decorations she will donate for the evening and will meet with the Elks manager of the hors d'oeuvre menu. She suggested that we have music at dinner and dancing after with music provided by someone's donated CD player.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Brad Beach - Board Secretary

## NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

### PROGRAM NOTE:

Remember that November's meeting is the meeting for open nominations for the board positions. Please come prepared to volunteer for one of the openings or at least nominate someone who you think would serve the club well. The only requirements are that you be a member in good standing (only the nominating committee has a 2 year club participation requirement) and that you be able to meet twice a month and fulfill the obligations of your position. All board positions are open. Two of our current board members had to resign in the middle of their 2 year terms due to work conflicts and a special election will be held simultaneously with the regular elections to fill those trustee positions. Other open offices are 3 additional trustee positions, president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. If you feel OTVARC needs you, please step up and be counted among the people running for office.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

David Aucsmith, N7VKC, works for Intel as a research scientist and security architect. He will explain what a computer cryptological mathematician does and why companies need their services. He is also one of the Professors at PSU and teaches classes in math and computer science (big surprise, huh?).

His key focus however will be about his two favorite hobbies, ham radio and mountain climbing. He has a multi-media presentation and will bring in his mini-Packet system to demonstrate. He will show slides and discuss the use of ham radio in mountaineering and wilderness expeditions. He will talk about the use of ham radio in general for wilderness excursions, and also discuss specifically his involvement with Portland Mountain Rescue. In addition he will share with us how he keeps in touch with his family back home when he is on an expedition. Through position pinging his family can map his progress on the climb. This informative talk will also include how he uses UHF/VHF packet, GPS, and the HF gateway on his adventures. Dave is a fascinating gentleman and well worth the effort to come listen to at the meeting. Hope to see you there.

## DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

Our guest entertainers for the December meeting are a local barbershop quartet, ***The Aliens***. They were the banquet entertainment for SEA\*PAC in 1992. They are consummate vocalists and hilariously funny.

## JANUARY CLUB MEETING

A representative from the West Side Light Rail Project will be at January's meeting to discuss the project with an emphasis on the unique communication situations encountered in managing a project of such scope. Maybe they will even explain why we were asked to turn off our radios when passing the tunnel part of the project.



# News From All Over

Reprinted from NewsLine Publications

## A FISH STORY

This story from Australia. Researchers at the University of Sydney say that they have made an interesting discovery that could yield major benefits in the areas of solar energy and optics and they owe it all to a fish.

It seems that a group of physicists were arguing at lunchtime over what makes a fish so "silvery." Unable to reach a conclusion, they went to a nearby Fish Market, bought the shiniest fish they could find, and took it back to the lab.

A scientific inspection of the fish skin showed that it contained "multiple stacks of organic crystals, interleaved by layers of watery tissues, arranged in what scientists call the Chaos Theory principle. In other words the cells are arranged in an apparently disordered manner, instead of neat arrays.

The highly efficient natural reflectors are intended to confuse predators, but this discovery promises to lead to more efficient solar mirrors and other optical and reflective devices.

## ARRL TO ASSIST HANDICAPPED

The says that it ARRL is currently working to develop materials for disabled individuals with an interest in Amateur Radio. It notes that it is looking for stories, photographs, recordings of experiences of disabled Amateur Radio operators or from instructors and rehabilitative personnel who have worked with handicapped ham radio students. It is also looking for practical solutions to problems faced by handicapped hams. This includes adaptive devices for radios and computers that could be invaluable to a potential ham struggling to earn a ticket or make the ham shack as accessible as possible.

If you have any ideas and would like to help, please contact Mary Carcia, N7IAL in care of the ARRL Program for the Disabled, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Or you can call Mary at (203) 666-1541 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, Eastern time.

## BRAILLE NOVICE EXAM

Meanwhile, Dave Allen, WD8LDY says that he has already transcribed the most recent Novice question pool for Examination Element 2 into grade two Braille. In his recent all United States packet radio posting Dave notes that anyone who needs it, please contact Dave at (214) 235-9821. He asks that you call him only between 9:00am and 9:00pm central time. WD8LDY adds that he will try to get the Technician Element 3A done soon, and will look into others if requested.

## PUNITIVE ACTION IN CAL VE PROBE

The FCC has begun punitive action in the wake of widespread fraud in California's all volunteer amateur radio testing program.

The FCC takes action against 54 amateur radio operators connected with alleged license fraud in Southern California. The Commission plans to revoke the licenses of three hams and is cancelling license upgrades for 51 others. Ordered to turn in their licenses are James B. Williams, AA6TC of Wilmington, California, Robert L. Flores, N6WPQ of Santa Monica and his wife, Rose Marie Flores, N6WPR. All three are former Volunteer Examiners holding Extra class licenses.

The Commission says that an exam session the three claim to have administered never actually took place. The Commission accuses all three of willfully signing certificates showing that people who were not tested had passed elements necessary for amateur radio licenses.

The Commission singles out Rose Marie Flores as being in charge of the paperwork for one test session. Flores is accused of getting other VE's to sign certificates of completion for people the FCC sez were not examined.

The Commission issued a show cause order against the three September 27th. They have 30 days to appeal or lose their ham licenses.

FCC is also punishing 51 other hams they received license upgrades from Volunteer Examiners suspected of fraud. In June, the Commission gave each amateur a choice: they could either take the test again, or lose their upgrade.

Only 3 of the 51 appeared for re-testing and all three failed. Now, the Commission is revoking the upgrades all 51 hams received during exams in 1992 and 1993.

The three amateurs who face losing their licenses are part of a larger group. Nearly three dozen Volunteer Examiners were suspended throughout California about a year ago. There's speculation that the Commission's action may be the FCC's way of saying, there's more to come.

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# OTVARC HOLIDAY PARTY

## Wednesday, December 14, 1994

Regular meeting night at the Beaverton Elks  
with

Regular Elks Buffet Dinner from 6:00 to 7:00PM at regular price  
for those who wish to come early.

**7:00 Brief Club Meeting, to announce election results**

followed by--

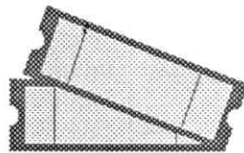
### *The Aliens*

A local Barbershop Quartet that has been singing and entertaining audiences for the past 26 years. They are one of the top show quartets in the country and have been finalists in international competition on a regular basis. They were the banquet entertainment for Sea\*Pac in 1992. They are consummate vocalists and hilariously funny. Sit back, relax, and listen to these 4 guys, who thoroughly enjoy entertaining an audience.



### Social Hour

with light snacks coffee, and punch  
and background Holiday music



### Raffle Drawing

Buy your raffle tickets from Chuck or Betty Mickley  
at the November or December Club meetings.

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

*Grand prize-2-Meter Handheld Kenwood TH-22*



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## Book Report:

### Easy Target

By Cynthia Wall

Take a young college student, add a touch of the majestic beauty of nature, stir in a tablespoon of intrigue, coupled with a healthy measure of amateur radio, let rise over several hundred pages and let the juices flow. This is just the recipe that Cynthia Wall - KA7ITT uses in her latest literary offering - EASY TARGET.

Once again, as in the last three books written by Cynthia, we meet Kim Stafford. This time, she is studying during spring term at the Marine Science Center in Newport. Kim seems to have the knack to find trouble no matter where her travels take her.

During a "Bunny Hunt" sponsored by the local radio club, Kim stumbles upon suspicious activities involving dangerous men and drugs. She notifies the Coast Guard. But that is just where the action starts.

There is also the puzzling development that involves one of her professors at the marine center. It seems that someone or something is killing Gray Whales on the yearly northern migration from Mexico to the waters off Alaska.

To see if there is any connection between the two incidents, you will need to read Cynthia's latest book.

I read the book in several days (when I could steal it away from the kids and wife). I have read the other three books by Cynthia (Night Signals, Hostage in the Woods, and Firewatch!) and was not disappointed by this latest offering. The books are all well written for all ages. The first three have been selected as a required reading book for elementary schools "Chapter 1" programs which help young students read and comprehend the written word.

We were fortunate enough to have Cynthia as our guest speaker at the October meeting and I really enjoyed the chance to chat with her. Cynthia is not a stranger to OTVARC either though. Cynthia has been guest speaker and program presenter at SEA\*PAC. In 1994, she was contacted by Trudi - KB7WJN to be a guest speaker for the hospitality room where she present a program about her work that received very good comments from those who attended.

Thanks Cynthia, for your work and dedication to detail. It was interesting to see call signs used of people I know. It added a "personal" touch. My kids say, "Keep 'em coming!"

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## October Earthquake SET

On Saturday, October 22, there was an Earth Quake SET (Simulated Emergency Training) held in the Portland / Vancouver area. According to the scenario, there was a 6.5 magnitude earthquake with the epicenter under Jantzen Beach, Hayden Island that affected both the Portland Metropolitan areas and SW Washington area including Vancouver and surrounding communities in Clark County.

The exercise involved members of ARES from Clark County, Multnomah County, Clackamas County, PARC (Portland Amateur Radio Club), Hoodview ARC, the Portland Chapter of the American Red Cross as well as local fire and law enforcement agencies and local area hospitals. The main purpose of the exercise was to test the communications abilities between the various agencies and communities through the use of various forms of emergency services including amateur radio.

Amateur radio operators were in place at numerous locations including fire stations, hospitals, the Red Cross headquarters, the EOC at Kelly Butte and at the OEM in Clackamas County. Amateurs from the different local mentioned were also dispatched with mobile units to review and investigate damage to outlying areas and report back to the various support services.

The exercise extended from approximately noon until 1400 local time. During this time, verbal as well as written formal traffic was passed between the "players" through the use of VHF, UHF and HF voice as well as VHF and UHF packet. Packet stations were in operation at the fixed sites only. No mobile or portable packet stations were utilized though they were discussed.

Due to the extent of the operation and scope of agencies involved, there was a request that the District 1 ARES net be activated in a "Low Level" monitor status. The net was made available to coordinate the passing of any traffic and contacts between the counties and various agencies. There was no official net activated as such but the primary NCS (Net Control Station) N7VZF monitored the 147.320 (D1 Primary Repeater) to coordinate the activities.

In the 2 hour period the D1 net handled 32 check-ins, 18 contacts between agencies and 4 pieces of traffic. The net secured at 14:15 PT.



## OTVARC Club Contacts

### OTVARC Executive Board

President	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Vice President	Betty Mickley	N7REX	642-1284
Secretary	Brad Beach	N7NVC	657-1781
Treasurer	Tim Taylor	N7UCA	292-5430
Trustee	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Trustee	OPEN		
Trustee	Camber Bybee	KB7RGX	645-6840
Trustee	Lynn Hurd	WB7UNU	649-9152
Trustee	Wes Allen	K7WWG	649-3295

### Other Club Contacts

ARRL Coordinator	Bob Orr	WF7Q	297-2732
Bunny Hunting	OPEN		
Contesting	OPEN		
DX News	Rich Jones	KG7FS	645-9417
Equipment Valuation	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	297-1175
Equipment Trustee	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Emergency Services	Tim Taylor	N7UCA	292-5430
Field Day	Carl Clawson	WS7L	629-5796
Health & Welfare	Pat Griffiths	KA7UFG	649-0837
Member Badges	Terry Sparks	AA7ZO	628-0372
Newsletter Editor	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	640-8873
Newsletter Layout	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	883-8504
Newsletter Distribution	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Nomination of Officers	Van Van Ness	KE7BB	246-7975
Project Night	OPEN		
Public Relations	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Public Service	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	297-1175
Repeater	Wes Allen	K7WWG	649-3295
RFI & TVI	Dale Mosby	N7PEX	640-0217
Satellites	Red Robert	AA7CP	357-5747
Scholarship	Exec.Board	N7VZF	644-1974
Sea-Pac	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
	Brad Beach	N7NVC	657-1781
	Jim Schaeffer	KB7ADH	245-2518
	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Technical	OPEN		
Tower Ordinances	Stan Griffiths	W7NI	649-0837
Trailer	Dee Lynch	KA7NPN	646-4580
Training(Code)	Burt Rooke	KI7JX	241-2891
Training(Novice/Tech)	Burt Rooke	KI7JX	241-2891
Training(Upgrade)	OPEN		
VE Testing	Alan Roehl	KO7B	292-5243
VE Test Schedule	P.A.R.I.S.	N7VIC	629-8933
VHF/UHF	Bill Roth	N7RYW	297-7605

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## OTVARC Club Information

**Purpose:** The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, a Not-for-profit corporation, wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective as well as established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Additionally, the intent is to promote the advancement of Amateur Radio Service through the following five objectives:

1. Education & Training of new and licensed Amateurs.
2. Public Service during public events & community activities.
3. Emergency communications during emergencies & disasters.
4. Hobby enhancement through meetings, nets & contests.
5. Social contact with other amateurs & interested persons.

**Special Service Club** OTVARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. The ARRL grants us this distinction due to our participation in emergency preparedness exercises, public service events and other service-oriented programs. In addition, continuing educational and training programs are conducted for FCC licenses. OTVARC benefits from you joining the ARRL through OTVARC. To join or renew your membership in the ARRL, contact the treasurer at any regular meeting.

**Newsletter:** The *OTVARC Oscillator* is the club newsletter. It is published monthly and is usually mailed on the first of the month. The opinions, views and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, its officers, advertisers or the editorial staff.

**Correspondence:** All correspondence may be sent to OTVARC, PO Box 5132, Aloha, OR 97006-0132.

**Advertising:** Classified ads are free to all paid up members. Display ads are available to approved commercial interests. To place an ad, mail your camera ready copy to the address above and indicate the size desired. All display ads run for six months at a time from January through June and July through December. All ads must be paid for in advance. Rates for 1994 are as follows:

Full Page	8" X 10"	\$200 for 6 mo.
Half Page	8" X 5"	\$125 for 6 mo.
Qtr Page	4" X 5"	\$75 for 6 mo.
Bus. Card	2" X 3"	\$35 for 6 mo.

**Meetings:** We have two meetings per month. The board meeting is on the first Wednesday of each month. All club business is conducted at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the President for location and time. The general meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave. (1 block north of Canyon Road). Meetings start at 7PM. If you would like to come early, you can get a nice meal from the Elks for less than \$6.

**Membership** OTVARC is open to anyone who is interested in amateur radio. You do not need to be a licensed radio amateur to join. Dues are as follows: Full member, \$10/yr; Associate member (non-licensed), \$10/yr; Family members of full member, \$5/yr; Life memberships available - see Treasurer. Only full members and life members may vote on club business and serve as club officers. All memberships expire on the last day of the calendar year. If you would like to join during the year, see the club Treasurer for prorated dues.

**How To Join:** Simply mail the Member Application and Renewal Form along with your dues to the address above.

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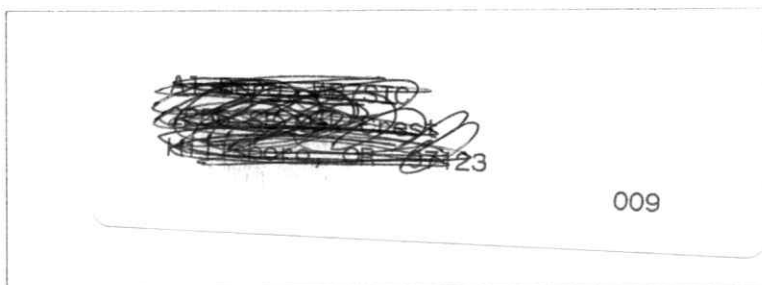


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*Address Correction Requested*



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